Slowing down of Industrialisation

†*255. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pace of setting up of industries has slowed down during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of industries closed down during the last three years together with the reasons for their closure;

(d) what assistance Government have provided to them; and

(e) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The number of Industries set up along with investment made during the last three years in the licensable as well in the delicensed sector (Non-SSI) are as under:

1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 (Apl-Dec)		1998-99 (Apl-Dec)	
No.	lnv(Rs. Cr)	No.	Inv(Rs. Cr)	No.	Inv(Rs. Cr)	No.	Inv(Rs. Cr)
1 0602	23269	396	22981	265	28456	285	14800

The slow down in setting up of industries can be attributed to both domestic and external factors which, inter-alia include demand stagnation and high interest rates together with corporate restructuring. However, in terms of industrial investment the slow down has occurred only during 1998-99.

(c) As per the information received from the Ministry of Labour, 441 industries have been closed down during the last three years (1997-1999). The main reasons for closure are financial non-viability, shortage of raw material, shortage of power, general slow down of demand, obsolete machinery and industrial disputes.

(d) and (e) The assistance, to the retrenched workers in closed industrial units are in the form of compensation in accordance with provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The retrenched workers are also entitled to statutory dues under Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 etc. State-wise details of such payment made of

†Oiginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

retrenched workers in units closed under Industrial Disputes Act is not maintained by the Government.

Privatisation of Drinking Water and Sewer Arrangement

*256. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to privatise drinking water and sewer arrangement in the urban area as well, after initiating the process of privatisation in the field of power and communications;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Constitution has extended the responsibility of providing drinking water supply and sewage disposal in urban areas to State Government under Article 246 (3) in VII Schedule (list II) entry nos. 5 & 6. It is for the State Government to take a decision regarding privatisation of these services. The Ministry of Urban Development is rendering all possible assistance to the State Governments to initiate the process of privatisation through policy formulation and exposure to international experience in this area. To sensitise the State Governments/Urban Local Bodies, the Ministry organised a seminar on Private Sector Participation in water supply and sanitation on 7-8 February, 2000. Simultaneously, the Ministry of Urban Development is also stressing the State Governments to enhance the capacity of Urban Local Bodies by way of effective financial management and training inputs of various categories of staff to effectively deal with responsibilities of water supply and sanitation conservancy.

(c) No definite time frame is fixed for this purpose.

Shelter to Animals

*257. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many proposals have been received for shelter to Animals Scheme during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99;